

The second of these papers contains an analysis of the flora of the various mountain grasslands, those of the montane zone receiving most attention. Many species are common to the montane and subalpine zones, rather more to the montane and plains, while a smaller number are limited to either the northern or the southern montane zones only. Little attempt is made to analyze the composition and dynamics of the various grassland associations.—
GEO. D. FULLER.

Fungus lore.—In his presidential address before the British Mycological Society in 1914, BULLER²⁵ has given a very interesting account of what he calls the fungus lore of the Greeks and Romans. It is an admirable résumé of the ancient literature of fungi, and gives to the general botanist much information which he will prize. Such topics as the following suggest the kind of information presented: edible and poisonous fungi, the dawn of mycology, the first known illustration of a fungus, the rust disease, the origin of fungi, the medicinal properties of fungi, the origin of poisons in fungi, the cultivation of fungi, the misuse of classical names by LINNAEUS, etc. It is shown that the Greeks and Romans were familiar with many kinds of edible and poisonous fungi. As to the origin and reproduction of fungi, they were in complete ignorance, in general being contented to accept a theory of spontaneous generation.

In a presidential address before the Royal Society of Canada in 1915, BULLER²⁶ continues the publication of his historical researches by presenting an account of "MICHELI and the discovery of reproduction of fungi."—
J. M. C.

Blooming period of *Dendrobium*.—RUTGERS and WENT²⁷ have investigated the factors concerned in the blooming of *Dendrobium crumenatum*, whose flowers open simultaneously on different individuals. They find that this coincident blooming of different plants depends upon the prevailing external conditions; and since these may vary in different places, the blooming period shows local variations. They conclude that light cannot exert any definite influence on the time of blooming, although it influences the number of flowers; and therefore they consider temperature or atmospheric moisture, or both factors together, to be responsible. The development of the flowers proceeds slowly up to a definite stage, at which they remain until some inhibitory influence is resolved by external factors. When this has occurred, the last stage in the opening of the flowers is accomplished in a few days. The external

²⁵ BULLER, A. H. R., The fungus lore of the Greeks and Romans. Trans. British Mycol. Soc. pp. 66. 1914.

²⁶ BULLER, A. H. R., MICHELI and the discovery of reproduction in fungi. Trans. Roy. Soc. Canada 9:1-25. pl. 4. 1915.

²⁷ RUTGERS, A. A. L., and WENT, F. A. F. C., Periodische Erscheinungen bei den Blüten des *Dendrobium crumenatum* Lindl. Ann. Jard. Bot. Buitenzorg 14:129-160. pl. 22. figs. 5. 1915.